

Appl. No. 09/828,312  
Reply to Office Action of July 16, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 83020.0002

### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the application that is reflected in the Office Action dated July 16, 2003. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 6-23, 25-42 and 24/4, 6-23 and 25-34 are allowed. Thus, the sole outstanding issue is the patentability of claims 5 and its dependent claims 2, 3 and 24/2, 3, 5. Applicants amend claim 5 to further distinguish over the cited references by explicitly defining the moving path of the carriage as well as the moving path of the first wiping member. Claims 2-42 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

#### Art-based Rejections

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection based on the Pham reference.

The Office Action now rejects claims 5, 3 and 24/5,3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki Tetsu (JP04-328521) further in view of Ishikawa et al. (USPN 5,903,287), and rejects claims 5, 2 and 24/5,2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (USPN 5,798,775) further in view of Ishikawa et al. (USPN 5,903,287).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

#### Claim 5

Claim 5 relates to a cleaning device for cleaning a nozzle surface of an ink-jet head. Claim 5 requires:

- a first wiping member for wiping said nozzle surface;
- a cleaner lever for supporting said first wiping member;
- a lever driving mechanism moving said first wiping member along a first moving path between a retracted position located away from said nozzle surface and a wiping position for wiping said nozzle surface;

Appl. No. 09/828,312  
Reply to Office Action of July 16, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 83020.0002

a flat plate form second wiping member formed of an elastic body arranged within the first moving path of said first wiping member so as to contact with said first wiping member; and

a carriage carrying said ink-jet head for reciprocally moving along a second moving path through a printing region and a cleaning position where said ink-jet head opposed to said first wiping member, a direction of the second moving path being different from that of the first moving path,

wherein a tip end surface of said first wiping member first comes in substantially perpendicular contact with a side surface of said second wiping member and then moves across said side surface. (Underlining added.)

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest "a carriage carrying said ink-jet head for reciprocally moving along a second moving path through a printing region and a cleaning position where said ink-jet head opposed to said first wiping member, a direction of the second moving path being different from that of the first moving path", as required by amended claim 5.

For example, as shown in FIG. 1 of Tetsu, a first wiping member 27 is moved by a driving mechanism (24b, 25, 26a, 26) along a direction that is parallel to the moving direction of an inkjet head 14. In contrast, for example, in an embodiment of the present invention, shown in Fig. 1, the first moving path, denoted by Arrows E and F, and the second moving path, denoted by Arrows A and B are perpendicular to each other. Therefore the Tetsu reference fails to teach or suggest "a carriage carrying said ink-jet head for reciprocally moving along a second moving path through a printing region and a cleaning position where said ink-jet head opposed to said first wiping member, a direction of the second moving path being different from that of the first moving path," as required by amended claim 5.

Similarly, the Takahashi reference teaches that only a carriage 2 carrying an ink-jet head 100 and a second wiping member 104, is moved so that the head surface 101a and the second wiping member 104 come in contact with the first

Appl. No. 09/828,312  
Reply to Office Action of July 16, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 83020.0002

wiping member 401. Therefore Takahashi fails to teach or suggest "a carriage carrying said ink-jet head for reciprocally moving along a second moving path through a printing region and a cleaning position where said ink-jet head opposed to said first wiping member, a direction of the second moving path being different from that of the first moving path." as required by amended claim 5.

The ancillary Sasaki reference fails to remedy the above deficiencies of Tetsu and Takahashi. As such, none of the references, alone or in combination, are seen to teach or suggest the limitations of the claimed invention, namely "a carriage carrying said ink-jet head for reciprocally moving along a second moving path through a printing region and a cleaning position where said ink-jet head opposed to said first wiping member, a direction of the second moving path being different from that of the first moving path." as required by amended claim 5.

Because the cited references fail to teach or suggest at least the above recitations of claim 5, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over the cited references. Dependent claims 2, 3 and 42/2, 3, 5 are also patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 5, and also because those claims describe additional novel elements and features that are not described in the prior art. For example, claim 3 requires "a third wiping member which is able to contact with said second wiping member while said cleaner lever is moving." Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest this feature.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 09/828,312  
Reply to Office Action of July 16, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 83020.0002

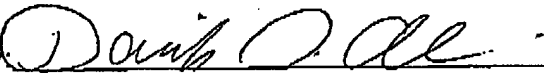
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: October 10, 2003

By



Darius G. Adli  
Registration No. 51,386  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Phone: 213-337-6700  
Fax: 213-337-6701

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
OCT 14 2003

OFFICIAL